

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:
first and second lamp groups including a plurality of lamps, respectively;
a first electrode ~~connecting means~~ connector and a third electrode connector electrically connected to ~~one of both~~ electrodes of each of the lamps constituting the first lamp group; and
~~a third electrode connector electrically connected to the other electrode of each of the lamps constituting the first lamp group;~~
a second electrode ~~connecting means~~ connector and a fourth electrode connector electrically connected to ~~one of both~~ electrodes of each of the lamps constituting the second lamp group; and
~~a fourth electrode connector electrically connected to the other electrode of each of the lamps constituting the second lamp group;~~
wherein the respective lamps constituting the first and second lamp groups are alternately arranged in parallel, and at least one of the first, second, third, and fourth electrode connectors have a rod shape.

2. (Original) The backlight unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a first inverter for driving the first lamp group, and
a second inverter for driving the second lamp group.

3. (Original) The backlight unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein a phase difference in voltages output from the first and second inverters is less than 90 degrees.

4. (Currently Amended) A backlight unit, comprising:
two or more lamp groups constructed in such a manner that a plurality of lamps are ~~allocated~~ grouped into two or more groups; and
a plurality of electrode ~~connecting means~~ connectors electrically connected to ~~both~~ electrodes of each of the lamps constituting the two or more lamp groups, wherein at least one of the plurality of electrode connectors has a rod shape,
wherein the respective lamps constituting the two or more lamp groups are alternately

arranged in parallel.

5. (Original) The backlight unit as claimed in claim 4, further comprising:
two or more inverters for driving the two or more lamp groups.

6. (Original) The backlight unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein a phase difference in voltages output from the two or more inverters is less than 90 degrees.

7. (Original) The backlight unit as claimed in claim 1 or 4, wherein each of the lamps has external electrodes.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
a liquid crystal module including a liquid crystal panel, a gate-driving unit for sequentially applying a gate-on signal to gate lines of the liquid crystal panel, and a data-driving unit for applying a data signal to all data lines of the liquid crystal panel; and
a backlight unit for irradiating ~~a predetermined amount of light to~~ the liquid crystal panel with a predetermined amount of light,

wherein the backlight unit comprises first and second lamp groups including a plurality of lamps, respectively, ~~a first and third electrode connecting means~~ connector electrically connected to ~~one of both~~ electrodes of each of the lamps constituting the first lamp group, a third electrode connector electrically connected to the other electrode of each of the lamps constituting the first lamp group, ~~a second and fourth electrode connecting means~~ connector electrically connected to ~~one of both~~ electrodes of each of the lamps constituting the second lamp group, and a fourth electrode connector electrically connected to the other electrode of each of the lamps constituting the second lamp group, the respective lamps constituting the first and second lamp groups being alternately arranged in parallel, at least one of the first, second, third, and fourth electrode connectors having a rod shape.

9. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
two or more inverters for driving the two or more lamp groups.

10. (Original) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a phase difference in voltages output from the two or more inverters is less than 90 degrees.